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Tokyo attempt to encounter UFOs doesn't come close

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TOKYO — An attempt to lure unidentified flying objects from outer space through the use of red, white and blue spotlights and the soundtrack from the American science fiction movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" ended in failure here Friday night.

The attempt was made by Nihon Shortwave Broadcasting Co. on the eve of the screening in Japan of the movie.

The red, white and blue lights were flashed out from the roof of a building in the center of Tokyo, where the broadcasting station's transmitter is located.

During the 50-minute attempt, broadcast live, some 30 camera-carrying newsmen watched, but no UFO responded.

Broadcasting company officials said there had been reports that UFO's fly in the presence of red, white and blue lights. It was the first attempt made in Japan to attract UFO's with the three-colored spotlights.

PRESS, Pittsburgh, PA
Jan. 8, 1978 CR: J. Jeffers

Phenomena Group Explores Mystery Blasts

DOVER, N.J. (UPI) — A group dedicated to investigating unexplained phenomena has appealed to residents in five East Coast states to come forward with their accounts of mysterious atmospheric blasts reported in recent weeks.

UFOs—For Real?

UFOs got you bugged? Still not sure whether they're weather balloons or extraterrestrial flying saucers? Well the folks in Washington D.C. can help you make up your mind.

The federal government is finally releasing films of unidentified flying objects, and cassette recordings of interviews with people who claim to

have had UFO experiences. The prices are geared to fit every pocketbook. Films are going for between \$5.75 to \$271. Recordings are priced from \$6.20 to \$18.40. You can obtain a complete catalogue by writing to the National Archives, Motion Picture and Sound Recording Branch, Room 20-E, Eighth and Pennsylvania NW, Washington D.C., 20408.

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GURNEY

The group, Vestigia, has devoted much of its time in the past to researching reports of atmospheric phenomena, sightings of "Big Foot" and UFOs, and parapsychological phenomena.

William Wagner, one of the group's coordinators, said Vestigia is working with Dr. T.J. Visvanathan, a geophysicist at the University of South Carolina and Dr. William Donn, an acoustical researcher at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory in Palisades, N.Y., to come up with an explanation for the mysterious blasts.

Wagner said the group is requesting information from anyone who may have experienced the rumblings or flashes of light along the Eastern Seaboard in the past two months.

The blasts were reportedly concentrated about 30 miles offshore from Toms River, N.J., on Dec. 2, 21, and 22, and off the South Carolina Coast on Dec. 10 and Jan. 5.

Vestigia is composed of scientists, engineers and laymen who investigate natural unexplained phenomena.

The group has some theories and several leads to follow.

Wagner said a phenomenon known as "piezoelectricity" may be the cause. He defined this as "the ability of certain minerals, like quartz, to generate an electrical charge when put under stress or strains."

HOUSTON CHRONICLE
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Mysterious booms rattle Charleston

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Four more mysterious booms of the type heard up and down the East Coast in recent months echoed through the Charleston area today.

Frank Hunt, news director of WCIV-TV north of Charleston, said the third in the series of booms was the strongest, lasting about four seconds and rocking the station building.

Hunt said the first boom came at 8 a.m. and the fourth about 15 minutes later.

The loud, unexplained noises have been reported since December by residents of coastal areas in New Jersey, Connecticut and South Carolina.

No official explanation for the phenomenon has been advanced. A federal investigation ordered by President Carter is under way.

INFORMATION, DATA, COMMENTARY AND SPECULATION

BY JOHN F. SCHUESSLER
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Viewpoints

UFOs may be key to the 21st century

From John F. Schuessler, P. O. Box 58485.

In reply to your question as to whether the unexplained UFOs are of earthly origin or not, it is a good possibility that some are while others are not. The mere fact that thousands of cases remain unexplained, even in the light of our current state of technology, should make us wary of any hasty, broad explanation. Well-meaning individuals claim "proof" of psychic, extraterrestrial, imaginative and other explanations, when in fact their proofs are really just opinions.

Another official UFO investigation without some very strict guidelines would be useless. However, a study delving into common aspects of the highly credible cases, conducted by a responsible organization like NASA, and done in a truly scientific and open manner could be very worthwhile.

Public interest in UFOs has remained strong over the years, because the public knows something is going on and they have never been given a straight story. The new movies are quite successful because of this high public awareness. The movie producers didn't cause the UFO interest, they are just cashing in on it.

Questions such as those dealing with whether or not UFOs have communicated, or abducted individuals, or are secret projects of some government emphasize the need for scientific study. The pseudoscience of the debunkers and the true believers has kept the subject controversial and before the public, but has done nothing about finding a real answer.

The answers to this mystery may be more than just interesting, they may be a key to the science of the 21st century. Let us use science, not ridicule, during the next year to find some answers.

A personal experience

From Mrs. Elaine Geist, 7130 Santa Fe.

I think the unexplained UFO sightings could be some very advanced scientific development on Earth that is still being kept secret.

I do not think there is any connection between UFOs and the so far unexplained recent heavy atmospheric explosions off the East Coast.

These are additional letters received on the Saturday Forum question about UFOs. Next week's question is "Do farmers' problems justify their striking?"

I have personally experienced viewing an UFO. Here is my story:

One Sunday night in October 1966, my husband, our oldest son and myself drove to a little drive-in grocery store on Bellfort. We were inside and some teen-agers came in and said to come outside and look, there was something odd looking flying above. There had just been a robbery in the grocery store before we got there, so the police were there also. We all went outside, police and all, and looked above our heads and I remember seeing this oval-shaped UFO with lights, or what seemed like lights, all around it. The thing glowed from a dim yellow to a bright orange or red. It hovered above our heads quite low for a long time. I think we were all in a trance, because I cannot remember anyone saying a thing.

Then all of a sudden it moved out to the street and turned a 90-degree angle and went right down Bellfort toward Telephone Rd. When we finally realized this was something different, we got in our car and drove fast down Bellfort, nothing in sight. We combed the neighborhood looking for this UFO, but could not find anything, even went to Hobby Airport and looked around. We went back home, and did some telephoning. We called Hobby Airport, Rice University and Ellington Field and asked if they had any information on a UFO sighting, if there was a weather balloon up, an airplane or any other vehicle that might explain this thing we saw: no one had any information to give us.

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